

April 8, 1974

passed. The bill is the bill that creates a professional jail and director of jails in Douglas County. It is limited in it's jurisdiction to Douglas County. It's a bill that I know many of you a..have heard when we debated it the other day. I've been told that there has been some discussion about it today, and I would like to encourage everyone to support this bill that feels ~~that~~ they can, or any other reason that you might have. Very briefly this bill will require a hiring of a professionally qualified educationally trained individual to serve as the Director of Corrections in Douglas County. The story was told that Sheriff Janning was against this bill. And it isn't true because Sheriff Janning position has been a hands off one. I can tell you that I sat in Sheriff Janning's office a few weeks ago, and he said that there were some things with the bill as it then stood, that he was not satisfied with with and wanted changed. All those changes have been made. I've been told that his Chief Deputy Joe Thornton, has said that he's against it because the Deputies are against it. I can tell you that I have talked to many many Deputies including leaders of the Deputy Sheriff's Organization, and they have told me that they are satisfied with this bill, and want it passed. They are satisfied with it, because the bill is hand tailored to preserve their situation and at the same time achieve the desired correction of separating or change rather. Of separating the police function of the sheriff's office from the corrections and rehabilitation functions. Now there are many sheriff's around the state adequately or very ably represented by Senator Kime when he moved to kill this bill a few days ago. Many Sheriffs around the state are worried. I can understand there concern. They can talk about law enforcement and the difficulty that sheriff's have in enforcing the law, the help that they need. That gentlemen and ladies has nothing to do with the bill. The concern as they expressed related to the fact that in many counties, sheriff's income is determined on a combination of their own salary and their jail operation. This in no way applied to any county except Douglas county. And in Douglas County, the sheriff's salary is totally independent and not related to the jail function at all. Now I hate to get involved in long extensive debate at this time because I think generally everyone is familiar with it. I would be happy to answer any questions that anyone has, and I would like the right to close at t he end.

PARESIDENT: Thank you, Senator Kime.

SENATOR KIME: Mr. Chairman, I hate to get up here and debate Senator Fellman, because I THINK he is one of the most able Senators in this group. He knows what he is talking about and he knows how to tell the rest of you what he thinks. However, he says that we need professional people to take care of this jail. Where could you get a more professional group than the sheriff himself and his deputies to take care of these ...this jail. This bill has been debated as he says last week thoroughly. The sheriff's most concerned with this bill. Sheriff Jannings over in Omaha, and the Sheriff here in Lincoln. Sheriff Jannings says he could live with it, but he doesn't like it. The sheriff here in Lincoln contracts with the city to take care of this... his prisoners. And he's not too concerned although he states that he does not care for it either. The group that I represent the State Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association, which takes